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Yes, go to God, whom you but dimly see, and pray to Him in the darkness, where He seems to sit. Pray, the manliest thing that a man can do, the fastening of his life to the eternal, the drinking of his thirsty soul out of the great fountain of life.

—Phillips Brooks.

Our Educational Page.

The Educational Page in to-day's Times-Dispatch is more newsy and hence we like it better than that of last Sunday. Not that we do not set a high value upon news, but we desire that this department of the Times-Dispatch shall be from week to week a sort of picture of educational progress in Virginia. We want to know what the schools are doing.

After all, it is the work that counts. Therefore, we would like to hear from the teachers and superintendents. Let us know what you are doing in your school; what progress you are making and what obstacles are in your way. Let us all unite in making the Educational Page a medium of communication between educators and the general public—a clearing-house of educational news and views.

To-day, we print news from Hampden-Sidney, William and Mary, the Farmville Normal, University of Virginia, Trinity, North Carolina; Locust Dale and Palmyra.

Mr. L. H. Blair contributes an article on compulsory education; Mr. G. G. Joyner, of Accomac, contributes another article on the same subject, and a Southern woman points out the value of industrial education for Southern boys. There is also a timely article from President Boardman, of Richmond College, on "The Plan of Fine Arts in a College Course."

The Farmville Herald pays this tribute to the new feature:

The Richmond Times-Dispatch has inaugurated a new feature in its columns. It proposes to devote one page a week to a discussion of educational problems and news.

The first page issued, that of last Sunday, is good from top to bottom, and it is a promise of what is to follow, the people of Virginia, as well as The Times-Dispatch, are to be congratulated. Letters from State Superintendent Eggleston, President E. A. Alderman, Professor J. L. Jarman and others appear, and pieces of school houses in Accomac and Prince Edward counties add interest to the page.

If The Times-Dispatch proposes to open this page to clear-cut, definite, open discussion, as we have no doubt it will, we may confidently expect to see articles of ability and timeliness in every educational issue.

The Curse of Carpetbagism.

The Nashville American says that the exposures brought about by the trial of Mr. Norman Hapgood, editor of Collier's Weekly, has brought conspicuously into the limelight one Colonel W. D. Mann, owner and editor of Town Topics, and Colonel Mann was a carpet bagger, who lived for a time in Mobile. "He is a fair sample," says our contemporary, "of the men who overran the South for years by their many wrongful acts and brought untold sorrow and loss to the Southern people after they had been ruined by the war." These were the men who added to the terrors of reconstruction. They came to the South as vultures gather around a carcass and preyed upon our infirmities and distress. They organized the negroes and used the negro vote to put themselves into power, and when once in control of the government, they held a carnival of debauchery and corruption, and in some cases bankrupted the States whose government they controlled. It is not necessary to mention names. It is almost a disgrace to print such names in the columns of a decent newspaper, but the men are well known and their careers make one of the blackest pages of American history.

Colonel Mann was one of the best of them, for he sided with the Democrats and was instrumental in developing some of the greatest industries of the South, notably the cotton seed oil industry. But if he was one of the best, in the name of all that is infamous, what a list we say of those who were worst. It was a greedy gang of unprincipled scoundrels, who skulked during the war, but followed along in the wake of the armies of the North and gathered up the spoils. Most of them have now gone to their reward, and the men of the South are in the control of their own affairs. How well they have done, how far they have succeeded, in reclaiming their wasted fields, in rebuilding their cities, and in constructing a commercial and industrial system; how far the land has recovered from the blight of reconstruction and carpet-baggers is set forth in an article contributed by Mr. Richard H. Edmonds to the February number of the American Review of Reviews, which we have reviewed elsewhere.

Triumph Over Carpetbagism.

Mr. Richard H. Edmonds, editor of the Baltimore Manufacturers' Record, con-

tributes to the February number of the Review of Reviews, an article on "The South's Amazing Progress," which is so amazing in its revelations as to make the reader almost skeptical.

Mr. Edmonds speaks especially of the cotton industry of the South, showing that between 1880 and 1905 the South has increased the number of its cotton spindles from 67,000 to 9,205,000 and the consumption of cotton in its mills from 225,000 to 2,435,000 bales. These figures are of more significance when it is remembered that New England and all the country outside of the South in 1880 consumed 1,350,000 bales, and in 1905 2,282,000 bales. From 1880 to 1905 the South nearly quadrupled its consumption of cotton, while New England only increased 28 per cent. In addition, the number of cotton oil mills increased from 45 to 780, and the capital invested in such mills from \$5,500,000 to \$54,000,000. The value of the cotton crop increased from \$4,000,000 to \$68,000,000.

The South has 77 cotton mills, but it furnishes the raw material for three-fourths of the cotton mills of the world, which have 110,000,000 spindles and a capital of \$2,000,000,000. Some enthusiasts predict, says Mr. Edmonds, the coming of the time when the South will spin and weave all its own cotton. But he points out that by the time the mills of this section have so increased as to consume the number of bales now produced, the world's mills will need possibly 25,000,000 or 30,000,000 bales more. Mr. Edmonds then raises the question whether or not our lands could meet this demand, and he expresses the conviction that they could. He says that an expenditure of about \$20,000,000 by the national government upon the levee work on the Mississippi River would reclaim an area of 20,000,000 acres of land fertile enough to yield a bale of cotton to the acre, and, besides, that there are vast stretches of land in the Southwest never touched by the plow which could be made to produce 5,000,000 or 6,000,000 bales a year. It is also to be considered that with a better supply of labor and better methods of cultivation the lands already tilled could be made to increase their product.

This is the most important question for the South now to consider—very much more important, it seems to us, than the question of cornering the crop and increasing the price. So far from limiting the output and making the staple as dear as possible thereby inviting foreigners to develop the cotton-growing industry in other lands, it would be far more sensible for the South to exert herself to give the world a plentiful supply of raw cotton at a fair price above the cost of production.

We have consumed so much space in discussing cotton that we have no room for reviewing the rest of Mr. Edmonds' amazing article. But it is all summed up in the following table:

	Rest of country	Southern States
Cotton mills:		
Capital invested, 1898, 000,000	\$198,000,000	\$25,000,000
No. spindles, 1898, 000	2,985,000	9,205,000
Raw cotton used, 1898, 000	1,345,000	2,435,000
Big iron made, tons	2,885,000	2,100,000
Bituminous coal mined, tons	35,900,000	70,000,000
Coke made, tons	2,940,000	6,241,000
Petroleum, bbls.	26,107,000	42,465,000
Lumber products, value	\$194,000,000	\$250,000,000
Manufactures:		
Capital invested, 1898, 000,000	\$2,333,000,000	\$1,500,000,000
Products, value, 1898, 000,000	\$4,312,000,000	\$1,750,000,000
Exports, value, 1898, 000,000	\$714,000,000	\$555,000,000
Railroads, miles	11,000	90,900
Factories, value	\$1,500,000,000	\$1,750,000,000
Property, assessed value, 1898, 000,000	\$14,080,000,000	\$5,500,000,000

How is that for a triumph over reconstruction and carpet-bagism?

Oyster Boats and Their Sailors.

From reports sent by our special correspondent, it appears that conditions of intolerable misery and lawlessness prevail on many of the Chesapeake Bay oyster boats. Vague rumors of hardship and brutality sometimes drifted to shore, but the well-fed eaters of the succulent bivalve brushed aside all such reports as foolish, untrustworthy or of no consequence. Much the same spirit of smug self-satisfaction was shown by the French nobility before the revolution. In some contemporary memoirs it is mentioned that "two poor fellows slept with the deep and had no wages." Pitiful! Yes, but even a dog kennel is preferable to a dark and slimy forecastle in a leaky oyster sloop.

And not the least shame are the means of enslaving the victims. The press gang methods of Lord Nelson's days are still in vogue to get a sailor drunk and then make him sign a contract, which is virtual slavery, is the method by which crews are supplied to the oyster boats. And the system has not only not been suppressed, but calmly tolerated. Evidently the oyster navy has been of scant assistance to the oppressed sailors. What has it done for the oysters?

From numerous sources evidence was introduced at the last session of the Legislature showing that the general administration of Virginia's oyster industry is bad. We have in our waters the best oysters in the world, and from that industry a princely revenue could be derived for the State with reasonable management.

This exposure is one which should direct the attention of every Virginian to the oyster business in all of its phases. We trust that the whole matter will be fully investigated.

Mr. LaFollette's Visit.

Senator Robert M. LaFollette, who, in working reforms as Governor of Wisconsin, made a national reputation for himself, will deliver a lecture in this city on the evening of February 17th, under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association.

Senator LaFollette is a pure type of the western agitator. He does not imply the term offensively. All reformers are agitators. It is agitation in nature, in politics, in society, in business, in religion that prevents stagnation, and purifies the atmosphere. The agitator may be a demagogue or a patriot, but in the

economy of God he is a means to an end.

We welcome Senator LaFollette to Richmond. It will be a privilege to hear him and we believe that his lecture will be of benefit to the entire community.

A Public Blessing.

The new Second Baptist Church, on West Franklin Street, will be formally dedicated to-day to the service of God. It is a glorious monument to religion and to the devotion and piety of a noble congregation. The whole city is interested, for it is a good thing and a public benefit to build a temple to the true and only God.

"And the Lord said unto David, my father, Whereas it was in thine heart to build a house unto my name, thou didst well that it was in thine heart."

"And the Lord said unto him (Solomon), I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there forever. And my name and my heart shall be there perpetually."

Tax Accounts.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch of yesterday contained a very practical and business-like editorial on the subject of delinquent tax collections, in which it advocated the making out of tax bills as other business accounts are made out, so that annually the whole account will be rendered to the taxpayer, instead of a statement for the previous year only. Much of the confusion in tax accounts, especially in the purchase of real estate, arises from a failure to adopt this simple rule of business, which obtains in every line of business, except tax collecting. It is surprising that this reform has not been adopted earlier, and it is to be hoped that it will be adopted until it is adopted. It need not interfere with the present plan of collecting delinquent taxes, but it would undoubtedly reduce the number of tax delinquents and materially aid in the collection of taxes.—Petersburg Index-Appel.

We are glad to have the approval and support of the Index-Appel in this single, but much needed reform. Will not some member of the General Assembly undertake to draw the bill and introduce it?

God's World.

(Selected for The Times-Dispatch.) "And God saw everything that He had made, and behold it was very good."—Gen. 1, 31.

This is good news, and a gospel. The Bible was written to bring good news; and, therefore, with good news it begins and with good news it ends.

We need faith to believe it; and that faith will be sometimes sorely tried. For it is not always easy to believe. St. Paul tells us, "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God; so that the things which are seen were not made of things which appear."

No one can prove to us that God made the world; yet we must believe it; and, what is more, we do believe it, and are certain of it. All the proof and arguments possible will not make us certain that God made the world; they will only make us feel that it is probable and reasonable for us to think so.

What, then, does make us certain that God made the world—as certain as if we had seen him do it? Faith, which is stronger than all argument; faith, which comes down from heaven to our hearts; faith, which is the gift of God.

And we must further believe, not only that God made the world, but that all things which He has made are "very good."

God is good, the perfect and absolute good; and from good nothing can come but good. Therefore, all which God has made is good, as He is. And if anything in the world seems to be bad, one of two things must be the reason.

Either it is not bad, though it seems so to us, or else, if it is really bad, then God did not make it. It must be a disease, a mistake, a failure of man's making, but not of God's. All that He has made He sees eternally; and "behold it is very good."

Now, I can say that, and I firmly believe it. Yet I cannot prove it to you by any argument. But I believe it. I dare say many others believe it also—by faith, which speaks to a man's heart and reason, teaching him things surer and deeper than all sermons and books, all proofs and arguments.

Yet at times we shall need that faith very much indeed, not only about our neighbors, but about ourselves. We shall find it hard to believe that there is goodness in some of our neighbors. And the better we know ourselves we shall find it very difficult to believe that there is any good in us.

It is a great puzzle.

"God saw everything He had made, and behold it was very good." And God made you and me! Are we, therefore, "very good"? Were we ever "very good"? It would seem as if we must have been, if God made us. For God can make nothing bad. Surely not.

He who makes bad things is a bad maker; he who makes bad houses is a bad builder; and he who makes bad men is a bad maker of men. But God cannot be a bad maker, for He is perfect and without fault in all His works. Yet men are bad.

And, on the other hand, if God made us, and the Bible be true, there must be some good in us. When God said, Let that man be, He thought of us as good. He created each of us good, in His own

SO MANY WOMEN

have been benefited by taking Hostetter's Stomach Bitters during the past 53 years that it has long since been recognized as the best woman's medicine before the public. If you suffer from ailments peculiar to your sex, get a bottle of

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STOMACH BITTERS at once. It always cures Vomiting, Sick Headache, Backache, Cramps, Sleeplessness, Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Costiveness, Chills, Colds or La Grippe. A fair trial will convince you of its value.

mind, else He would not have created us at all. Why were we not good when we came on earth? Why do we come into this world at all? Why does God's thought of us, God's purpose for us, seem to have failed? We do not know—we need not know.

St. Paul tells us it came by Adam's fall, and that thus each man as he came into the world became sinful. How that was, we cannot understand—we need not understand. It is a great mystery—but a great fact, nevertheless.

For our own hearts will tell us that it is true. Are there not in each of us two different persons fighting for the mastery? Are we not so different, at different times, that we seem to ourselves and our neighbors to be two entirely different people, according as we give way to the better or the worse nature in us?

Do you wish to be right? Do you wish to be what God intended you to be? Do you wish that of you the glorious words may come true, "And behold it was very good"?

Then believe this. All that which is good in you, God has made; and He will take care of what He has made, for He loves it. All that which is bad in you God has not made, and therefore He will destroy it.

Take courage then. If thou hast thy sins, so does God. If thou art fighting against thy worse nature, so is God. On thy side is God, who made all, and Christ, who died for all, and the Holy Spirit, who alone gives wisdom, purity and nobleness.

How canst thou fall when God is on thy side?

Of course the ground-hog superstition is a superstition merely, but it is an interesting coincidence that during the past several years in this vicinity the ground-hog has "seen his shadow" on ground-hog day, that is to say, ground-hog day has been bright and clear, and there has followed a period of severe winter weather. It is in this way that superstitions get such a hold upon the people. We take note of and remember all facts going to confirm the superstition, forgetting all facts to the contrary.

For example, there are thousands and tens of thousands of successful enterprises associated with Friday and the number 13, and, of course, nobody, ever thinks of them in this connection, but when there is misfortune thus associated, the fact is noted and exploited, and all superstitious people are duly impressed. There are many old women who dream dreams in the day-time as well as in the night-time, and often they have presentiments. "Something tells them" this or that, and when the dream is fulfilled and the presentiment comes to pass, however rarely that may be, there is much ado about it, and these old women are looked upon as soothsayers. Yet they have many more dreams and see many other visions, which never are fulfilled. But there is something fascinating about superstitions. We all love mystery and we seize upon the pleasure of it whenever there is the slightest circumstance to justify.

Outside observers find difficulty in understanding why Mr. Jerome is able to deal so much swifter brand of justice to Colonel Mann than to the life insurance criminals.

It is doubtful, however, if Secretary Shaw will find the currency particularly valuable as a boom developer. Not but what currency helps booms now and then.

A Mormon apostle has just died, leaving forty-nine children. Date of his Roosevelt congratulations not stated.

Some people actually have the nerve to hint that Boni Costellane married Miss Gould for her money.

But really it got to be a question of the colleges abolishing foot-ball or of foot-ball abolishing the colleges.

Caucus rule, however, can probably stand the publicity better than Senator Patterson.

Mr. Dolan admits that he, too, is a man of his own opinions.

What is the matter with Peoria (Ill.) morals nowadays?

1761—A usurer fined at Guildhall, London, £200 for having exacted six guineas to discount £100 for six weeks.

1804—Congress extended the boundary of Mississippi territory northwest to the thirty-fifth degree of latitude.

1805—Work was begun on a new city called "Napoleon," which the Emperor ordered built near Fontenoy, France.

1811—Battle of Laffont, in which the Prussians defeated the Turks, after a sanguinary contest.

1814—Battle of Montmirail, between the French, under Bonaparte, and the Russians, under de York.

1829—Andrew Jackson, President-elect of the United States, arrived at Washington by coach, while the electoral vote was being counted in the House of Representatives and cannon were being fired in honor of his election.

1830—Don Miguel, King of Portugal, unable to obtain money from other quarters, levied a tax on all monastic orders.

1854—The English Battle fleet sailed from Portsmouth in the presence of Queen Victoria, who had come to review it.

1865—The Rev. Dr. Garnet, colored, preached in the hall of Representatives at Washington, D. C.

1864—A bill introduced in the House at Washington offering loyal slave owners \$200 bonus for each of their negroes allowed to enlist in the Union army.

1874—The Massachusetts Senate rescinded its famous resolution censuring Charles Sumner.

1880—The New Jersey Assembly defeated a bill abolishing capital punishment by a vote of about three to one.

1885—Grover Cleveland was declared President-elect at a joint session of the houses of Congress, the first Democrat in twenty-eight years.

Rhymes for To-Day.

A Nature Lover.
I like to be a catfish,
Beside a catfish,
And listen to the chickadees
And eke the shrill tit-willow—
(At least his note sounds shrill to me,
And sometimes even shriller).

I like to watch the robins call
Athwart the worms they've borrowed.
I like to hear the magdral
Or cat-birds all unswerving,
I like to have the acorns fall
And blit me on the forehead.

I like to hear the squirrel squeak
In greeting to his neighbor,
I like to hear the beetle shriek,
Beneath the hornet's sabre;
I like to loaf away each week,
And never do no labor.

—H. S. H.

Merely Joking.

Vanishing Fame.—"If the newspapers don't stop abusing patent medicines," mused the Hon. Thomas Rott, "there will be no way left for obscure congressmen to get their faces in print."—Puck.

Senatorial Talk.—Teacher: "Henry, what is your excuse for being absent from school yesterday?" Schoolboy (in Washington): "Teacher, I was paired with Jimmy Kirkbride."—Chicago Tribune.

Was it a Hint?—Mr. Statelake: "Y-a-a, I hate those—ah—simple-minded country people that show everything they feel." Miss Westend: "It is a mere matter of training. One of the first things I was taught was the art of appearing interested when bored half to death."—New York Weekly.

Agreed.—The Widow: "I can't understand why any man should want to lead a double life." The Bachelor: "Same here. A single life is good enough for me."—Chicago Daily News.

The Trouble With Skinner.—"Skinner always shaves himself." "What's the matter? Doesn't he trust the barber?" "Yes, but the barber won't trust him."—Detroit Free Press.

Quite necessary.—"Is it necessary to inclose stamps?" asked the poet. "More necessary, even than to inclose poetry," responded the editor.—Philadelphia Ledger.

TAX ASSESSMENTS.

The Injustice of Our Wretched System in Virginia.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:—Sir:—As a Virginian who would like to see our methods of assessing values in the State in a way that every dollar of the wealth of the State might be made to bear its just and equitable burden of taxation, I believe that there is no more important work confronting the Legislature than to provide a remedy for the injustice and inequalities of the present system of assessment works.

As matters now stand many parts of the State are bearing far more than their share of taxation for State purposes and many other sections are escaping theirs. And what is more, some kinds of property are assessed in a way that make them bear more than their share of the burden.

I happen to be particularly well acquainted with conditions in the Shenandoah Valley, where I have been brought into close touch with the assessment of real and personal property values for a number of years. In Rockingham county the basis of assessment on real property is fifty cents on the dollar, and in Augusta county, adjoining it on the south, the basis is slightly higher. On the other hand, in Shenandoah county, which adjoins Rockingham on the north, the basis of assessment is only 33 cents on the dollar.

Therefore, one man goes down to Rockingham, and another goes up to Shenandoah, and find a ten thousand dollar farm assessed at five thousand dollars on the Shenandoah side, and at \$3,333 on the Rockingham side. It is readily seen that under such a system the Rockingham county farmer has to contribute more to the support of the State government than the Shenandoah farmer.

Now, when talking with Senator George B. Koezler, of whom Representative Carter Glass once said to me that he knows more about the fiscal affairs of the State of Virginia than any other man in the State, and he related even a more glaring instance than the one I have just recited. He said that some time ago—during the last session of the Legislature, I think it was—a county in Southwest Virginia, Pulaski, wanted to issue some bonds for a new railroad. As the county had already practically reached the limit of bonded indebtedness, an enabling act was necessary to the new issue of bonds. And this was sought at the hands of the Legislature. A committee of Pulaski citizens went before the Senate Finance Committee, and asked that committee to recommend the passage of the enabling act. They were very promptly reminded that they had already contracted as much indebtedness as the law or good business dictates would allow them to contract. With equal promptness they responded that their assessed valuations were only on a basis of twenty cents on the dollar, and that even bonds were assessed on this basis instead of at face value.

Further questioning elicited the fact that every year the county of Pulaski was drawing several thousands of dollars more from the State treasury than it contributed, and the further fact that the county assessments were made in order to avoid paying anything into the State treasury over and above what

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